

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64 further ~~In a communication network including a user station, a method for creating a customized audio program comprising:~~
~~automatically processing audio signals in each of a plurality of audio pieces and~~
~~generating audio characteristic information in real time with a broadcast of the audio pieces;~~
retrieving ~~[[the]]~~ audio characteristic information associated with the plurality of audio pieces; and
~~receiving user audio preference information;~~
comparing the audio characteristic information with the user audio preference information for identifying the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces~~[[;]]~~
~~selectively tuning to a plurality of audio channels for receiving the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces delivered over the plurality of audio channels temporarily storing the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces in a buffer;~~
and
~~outputting the temporarily stored audio pieces responsive to a detected playback condition.~~
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the audio characteristic information indicates subject matter content for each of the plurality of audio pieces.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 64, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include music.

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4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 64, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include voice.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 64, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include an advertisement.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 64, wherein the user audio preference information is associated with a particular theme, the method further comprising:
receiving a user selection of the particular theme; and
identifying the user preference information associated with the particular theme.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a radio broadcast network.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a computer network.

12-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] system of claim 84 further for creating a customized audio program comprising:

~~means for automatically processing audio signals in each of a plurality of audio pieces and generating audio characteristic information in real time with a broadcast of the audio pieces;~~

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means for retrieving ~~[[the]]~~ audio characteristic information associated with the plurality of audio pieces; and

~~means for receiving user audio preferences information;~~

means for comparing the audio characteristic information with the user audio preference information for identifying the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces~~[[;]]~~

~~means for selectively tuning to a plurality of audio channels for receiving the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces delivered over the plurality of audio channels;~~

~~means for temporarily storing the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces in a buffer; and~~

~~means for outputting the temporarily stored audio pieces responsive to a detected playback condition.~~

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the audio characteristic information indicates subject matter content for each of the plurality of audio pieces.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 84, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include music.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 84, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include voice.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 84, wherein the plurality of audio pieces include an advertisement.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 84, wherein the user audio preference information is associated with a particular theme, the system further comprising:
means for receiving a user selection of the particular theme.

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30-31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a radio broadcast network.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a computer network.

34-56. (Canceled)

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the audio characteristic information for each of the plurality of audio pieces is represented as an audio vector, the audio vector storing at least one value representing the extent of a particular audio characteristic present in the audio piece.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving the audio characteristic information from a transmitting source in advance of the receipt of the plurality of audio pieces.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving the audio characteristic information from a transmitting source concurrently with the audio pieces.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 64 further comprising:

dynamically generating an audio program based on the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces; and

playing the plurality of audio pieces based on the generated audio program.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 61, wherein the plurality of audio pieces are played according to customized playback times.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 64, wherein the plurality of audio pieces are broadcast over the plurality of audio channels based on their broadcast times.

64. (Previously Presented) In a communication network including a user station, a method for creating a customized audio program comprising:
receiving user audio preference information;
selectively tuning to a plurality of audio channels for receiving selected ones of a plurality of audio pieces delivered over the plurality of audio channels, the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces being identified based on the user audio preference information;
temporarily storing the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces in a buffer;
and
outputting the temporarily stored audio pieces responsive to a detected playback condition, wherein the playback condition is powering-on of the user station.

65-67. (Canceled)

68. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]The user station comprising of claim 78, wherein:~~
~~an input for receiving user audio preference information;~~
~~an audio tuner;~~
~~a preference tuner coupled to the audio tuner, the preference tuner for automatically processing audio signals in each of a plurality of audio pieces and generating audio characteristic~~

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~~information in real time with a broadcast of the audio pieces, the preference tuner is further configured to retrieve~~ retrieving ~~the audio characteristic information associated with the plurality of audio pieces, and~~ comparing compare the audio characteristic information with the user audio preference information for identifying the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces, ~~the preference tuner further causing the audio tuner to selectively tune to a plurality of audio channels for receiving the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces;~~

~~a buffer for temporarily storing the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces;~~

~~a sequencer coupled to the buffer for controlling playback of the temporarily stored audio pieces; and~~

~~an output for playing the temporarily stored audio pieces.~~

69. (Canceled)

70. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 68, wherein the audio characteristic information for each of the plurality of audio pieces is represented as an audio vector, the audio vector storing at least one value representing the extent of a particular audio characteristic present in the audio piece.

71. (Canceled)

72. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 68 further comprising:
means for receiving the audio characteristic information from a transmitting source in advance of the receipt of the plurality of audio pieces.

73. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 68 further comprising:
means for receiving the audio characteristic information from a transmitting source concurrently with the audio pieces.

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74. (Currently Amended) The user station of claim 78 ~~68~~, ~~wherein the further comprising a sequencer that~~ dynamically generates an audio program based on the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces.

75. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 74, wherein the dynamically generated audio program includes customized playback times.

76. (Currently Amended) The user station of claim ~~[[68]]~~ 78, wherein the plurality of audio pieces are broadcast over the plurality of audio channels based on their broadcast times.

77. (Currently Amended) The user station of claim ~~[[68]]~~ 74, wherein the sequencer detects ~~[[a]]~~ the playback condition and causes the output to play the temporarily stored audio pieces responsive to the detected playback condition.

78. (Previously Presented) A user station comprising:
an input for receiving user audio preference information;
an audio tuner;
a preference tuner coupled to the audio tuner, the preference tuner for causing the audio tuner to selectively tune to a plurality of audio channels for receiving selected ones of a plurality of audio pieces, the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces being identified based on the user audio preference information;
a buffer for temporarily storing the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces;
a sequencer coupled to the buffer for controlling playback of the temporarily stored audio pieces; and
an output for playing the temporarily stored audio pieces, wherein the playback condition is powering-on of the user station.

79-80. (Canceled)

81. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 68, wherein the audio characteristic information indicates subject matter content for each of the plurality of audio pieces.

82. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 68, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a radio broadcast network.

83. (Previously Presented) The user station of claim 68, wherein the plurality of audio pieces, the audio characteristic information, or both, is received over a computer network.

84. (Previously Presented) A system for creating a customized audio program comprising:

means for receiving user audio preferences information;

means for selectively tuning to a plurality of audio channels for receiving selected ones of a plurality of audio pieces delivered over the plurality of audio channels, the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces being identified based on the user audio preference information;

means for temporarily storing the selected ones of the plurality of audio pieces in a buffer; and

means for outputting the temporarily stored audio pieces responsive to a detected playback condition, wherein the playback condition is powering-on of an associated user station.